



KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

The role of housewife and mother and her involvement with philanthropic and civic clubs is not enough for the modern woman of the South Bay. She, too, is well informed on her government from the city, state and national levels. She attends meetings at which the issues on the ballots are discussed. She knows the candidates for office and she understands the operation of elections. She is a member of the Torrance League of Women Voters. Leading this non-partisan League, whose purpose is to bring out an intelligent voting public, are from the left, Mmes. Donald F. Meade, first vice president; James Van Oppen, who has served as president for two years; W. Frank Barnes, second vice president; and Arch Williams, Jr., treasurer.

(Press-Herald Photo)

Education for Local Children Her Forte

Education has been an all important phase in the life of Mrs. Mark A. Wright, who was a teacher prior to her marriage, reared two daughters, who became teachers, and played such an important role in advancement of education in her community that she has a school named for her.



MRS. MARK WRIGHT

Coming to Torrance when she was two years old, Mrs. Wright attended Lomita Schools and received her teaching credentials from the University of California at Los Angeles.

After her marriage, her first public service was serving as a neighborhood, then district, chairman of Girl Scouts.

In 1946, she was asked by the Torrance City Council to be one of a committee of five to draw up and present a charter to the voters so the community could form its own school district. Elected to the first Torrance Board of Education, she served 14 years in this capacity during which the district built 32 elementary schools, two high schools, added to the original high school, and planned the fourth high school.

Mrs. Wright instigated and organized the Torrance Council of Parents and Teachers' scholarship program.

Still active in the development

of her community, Mrs. Wright is presently serving on the Los Angeles County Redistricting Organization; is on the board of directors for the YWCA; serves as scholarship chairman for the Torrance Woman's Club of which she has been an active member for many years; and is a volunteer worker for the Red Cross bloodmobiles.

When not entertaining her two grandsons, presented to her by her teacher daughters, she spends her time reading and playing bridge.

Through the Years

Mrs. Sears There If Town Involved

Since 1935 in any project for the social, civic or philanthropic advancement of Torrance, Mrs. Dean Sears has been involved.

Working with many organizational projects, she has always kept an eye on Torrance's future in its younger residents. Probably, according to Mrs. Sears, the accomplishment of which is most proud was her part in the organization of the Torrance Junior Woman's Club. Mrs. Sears served on the Woman's Club committee to form this group and served as its first coordinator, a job she has filled many times since. It was on the Juniors' 26th anniversary that they showed their appreciation by bestowing on Mrs. Sears an honorary life membership in the Junior Club.

Another achievement, which has given her much pleasure, was her participation in the organization of the Torrance Chapter of American Field Service, in 1953. This program brings foreign students to Torrance to attend school for one year and make their home with an American family, designed to advance international understanding.

Mr. and Mrs. Sears and three daughters came here from the San Joaquin Valley in 1935. The daughters, Mmes. E. E. Clayton of Torrance; R. B. Trezise, Mesa, Ariz.; and J. H. Backlund, Miraleste, were all graduated from Torrance schools.

Active in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Mrs. Sears is a member and past president of St. Cecilia's Guild. Her other interests are the Torrance Woman's Club, Bert S. Crossland Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary. She is a charter member of the Sam Levy Chapter of the City of Hope and is a member of the Torrance Branch of the YWCA.

This long-time resident is a member of the Torrance Hospital Auxiliary and served on the Hospital Board. She is a member of a newly-formed group Las Laventadores, organized to raise funds for the new Torrance Hospital, now under construction.

During World War II, she volunteered her help to the Red Cross serving as chairman of the Motor Corps and was secretary to the Chief of Medical Services at the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation.

Besides the service organizations, Mrs. Sears is a member of the Euterpe Opera Club of Los Angeles and is a former Delphian. She and Mr. Sears are still active with the Triple T Dance Club, now in its 37th year. Since his retirement, the couple enjoy spending part of their time at their high desert cottage in Morongo Valley, and usually part, if not all, of their six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are with them.



TORRANCE'S NEWEST SERVICE CLUB

La Sertoma, comprised of wives of members of Sertoma (Service to Mankind) an international service organization, is one of the new energetic service clubs in the South Bay area. Chartered in June 1966, this auxiliary has devoted its efforts to the advancement of youth and last year awarded 13 summer camperships for needy youngsters; raised money for the YMCA building fund; worked with the Normont Headstart children; presented a youth service award; aided the Little Company of Mary Hospital; and the Torrance Child Care Center. These officers have directed the club's work during the current year, from left, Mmes. Duane Marshall, president; Michael Virgadamo, secretary; Jaime Wallace, treasurer; and Kenneth Spencer, vice president. Mrs. William Sawyers, first vice president, is not pictured.

(Press-Herald Photo)